

Claims

1. A method for generating and finishing documents, comprising:

converting a first data file in a first format, which data file describes the content of at least one document,
5 into a second data file in a second format, comprising image defining instructions and other instructions for finishing said at least one document;

processing said second data file into a processed second data file, whereby said image defining instructions are
10 processed into driving instructions for generating at least one document, and whereby said other instructions for finishing said at least one document are processed into driving instructions for finishing said at least one document;

15 thereafter driving equipment for generating and finishing said at least one document in accordance with said driving instructions; and

generating and finishing at least one document by means of said equipment in accordance with said driving
20 instructions.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said image defining instructions are formed by instructions for driving a printing apparatus.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said
25 driving instructions for generating documents comprise instructions for printing documents and are fed to a printing apparatus, and wherein said driving instructions for finishing documents comprise instructions for finishing physical documents printed by said printing apparatus and
30 are fed, separately from said driving instructions for generating documents, to a system for finishing physical documents, and wherein documents are printed by said

printing apparatus in accordance with said instructions for finishing physical documents.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said documents are delivered from said printing apparatus
5 directly to said system for finishing physical documents.

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein said documents are fed one by one from said printing apparatus to said system for finishing physical documents.

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein the supply
10 of driving instructions to said printing apparatus is carried out in accordance with receiving capacity representing signals coming from said system for finishing physical documents.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein, in
15 processing said second data file, associated finishing instructions are generated.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises determining franking values.

20 9. A method according to claim 7, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises selecting equipment for generating and finishing documents.

10. A method according to claim 7, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises
25 determining imprints on envelopes in accordance with associated image defining instructions for printing documents.

11. A method according to claim 7, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises
30 compiling transmittal data concerning a group of documents.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the processing of said second data file comprises verifying at least a portion of said driving instructions.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the
35 processing of said second data file comprises processing at least a portion of said image defining instructions.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the processing of at least a portion of said image defining instructions comprises reading at least portions of said image defining instructions and sorting sets of said image defining instructions each associated with a particular document, in accordance with said portions read.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein said instructions for processing said second data file into said processed second data file are inputted utilizing a universal interactive client server operating interface.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein said interface comprises web browser software.

17. A method according to claim 15, wherein said second data file, at least prior to the processing, is free of finishing instructions.

18. A method according to claim 15, wherein said processed second data file comprises: a first subfile containing image defining instructions, a second subfile containing associated finishing instructions and reference instructions which couple said image defining instructions to associated ones of said finishing instructions.

19. A method according to claim 1, wherein the processing of said image defining instructions into said execution format comprises converting image defining instructions in a first printing apparatus language into image defining instructions in a second printing apparatus language.

20. A method according to claim 1, wherein said image defining instructions comprise at least two separately executable sets of image defining instructions each comprising image defining instructions for printing an individual page.

21. A method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of documents including electronic and physical documents are generated.

22. A system for generating and finishing documents, comprising a data processor structure and equipment for

generating and finishing documents, said data processor structure being arranged for:

converting a first data file in a first format for describing the content of at least one document, into a
5 second data file in a second format, comprising image defining instructions and other instructions for finishing said at least one document; and

processing said second data file into a processed second data file, whereby said image defining instructions are
10 processed into driving instructions for generating at least one document and whereby said other instructions for finishing said at least one document are processed into driving instructions for finishing said at least one document;

15 wherein said data processor structure and said equipment for generating and finishing documents are operatively connected for driving said equipment for generating and finishing documents in accordance with driving instructions from said processed second data file; and

20 wherein said equipment for generating and finishing documents is arranged for generating and finishing documents in accordance with said driving instructions.

23. A system according to claim 22, wherein said data processor structure comprises a first data processor station
25 and a second data processor station, which data processor stations are mutually coupled for transferring data from said first data processor station to said second data processor station,

wherein said first data processor station is arranged
30 for providing a first data file in at least one first format, for describing the content of documents; for converting said first data file in said first format into said second data file in said second format; and for transferring said second data file to said second data
35 processor station;

wherein said second data processor station is arranged for said processing of said second data file into a

processed second data file and is operatively connected with said equipment for generating and finishing documents for driving said equipment.

24. A system according to claim 23, wherein said first
5 data processor station is free of software adapted to said equipment for finishing documents.

25. A system according to claim 22, wherein said data
processor structure is arranged for cooperation with web
browser software, such that the processing of said second
10 data file into driving instructions for generating documents and associated driving instructions for finishing documents is carried out in response to instructions inputted in cooperation with web browser software.

26. A system according to claim 22, wherein said
15 equipment for generating and finishing documents comprises a printing apparatus and finishing equipment, which finishing equipment is arranged in-line with said printing apparatus, for finishing documents received directly from said printing apparatus.

20 27. A system according to claim 26, wherein said printing apparatus and said processing equipment each have a control unit of their own.

28. A system according to claim 27, wherein said
control units each have a port of their own for
25 communication with an external data processor.

29. A system according to claim 26, wherein said
finishing equipment and said data processor structure are coupled and are arranged for transmitting processing
capacity representing signals from said finishing equipment
30 to said data processor structure and for driving said printing apparatus in response to said processing capacity representing signals, for printing at least one next document.

30. A system according to claim 22, wherein said
35 equipment for generating and finishing documents comprises equipment for generating and finishing physical documents

and equipment for generating and finishing electronic documents.

31. A computer program structure, comprising:

5 instructions for converting a first data file in a first format for describing the content of at least one document into a second data file in a second format, comprising image defining instructions and other instructions for finishing said at least one document; and

10 instructions for processing said second data file into a processed second data file, whereby said image defining instructions are processed into driving instructions for generating at least one document and whereby said other instructions for finishing said at least one document are processed into driving instructions for finishing said at
15 least one document.